


Dear Neighbor:

I recently took the oath of office and became your new state Senator. I look forward to meeting the challenges ahead and am already hard at work in Hartford.

The legislature will face many difficult issues in this session in addition to dealing with a looming budget deficit. The decisions we make will have far-reaching effects on Connecticut residents. I will confront these issues with common sense and with clear priorities, but most importantly I can only do so with your input.

Most people only contact their legislator when they have a crisis and need help. Although I will always be here to assist you in any way possible, I also encourage you to contact me when it is not an emergency. Feel free to call or write with your opinion on a specific issue. I was elected to represent you and your views.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan A. Harris  
State Senator, 5th District



STATE SENATOR

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Over the past several years, the General Assembly has acted to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the beauty of our state by creating an open space grant program to assist towns and non-profit organizations in their efforts to acquire land as preserved open space. With the price of land at a premium, these funds will enable towns and organizations to purchase land that might otherwise be lost forever.

I realize that preserving open space is of particular importance to the people of Farmington, who each year see more of their farmland and open space threatened by development. The charm and very character of our towns is at stake. As your state Senator, I will continue to support this program and its funding as a gift to our children and grandchildren.

## **HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE**

In Connecticut, a warm home throughout the cold winter months is not a luxury, it is a necessity. The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program helps ensure that the health of eligible residents is not jeopardized by an inability to pay for winter heating bills. This program applies to homeowners and renters alike and covers the cost of such heating sources as oil, natural gas and electricity. Priority goes to those households in which elderly, disabled, or children under 6 are living. It is administered by the state Department of Social Services and coordinated by regional Community Action Agencies. For more information and specific qualifying information, please contact **Infoline** at **211** or go to their website at **[www.infoline.org](http://www.infoline.org)**. While federal funding was reduced for this program, I will fight to have these dollars restored particularly with oil prices at well over \$40.00 a barrel as of this writing.

